

Message Text

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62
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 H-03 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01

/080 W
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P R 020714Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3562
INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL PERTH

UNCLAS CANBERRA 4180

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AS, US
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER DENOUNCES "COWARDLY" ATTACK BY SENATOR BROWN
ON AMBASSADOR GREEN

REF: STATE 142102

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM MADE FORCEFUL AND FAVORABLE STATEMENT AT MUCH-ANTICIPATED PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 2, CENSURING SENATOR BROWN AND DEFENDING AMBASSADOR GREEN. AMBASSADOR HAS EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION TO PRIME MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON SENATOR BROWN'S ATTACKS ON AMBASSADOR AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA JULY 2:

QUESTION: DOES YOUR SILENCE ON THE ATTACK BY SENATOR BROWN ON MR. MARSHALL GREEN INDICATE, AS IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED, YOUR TACIT APPROVAL FOR WHAT HE'S SAID?

WHITLAM: QTE I THANK YOU FOR PUTTING SUCH AN ALLEGATION TO ME SO DIRECTLY AND PROMPTLY SO I CAN REFUTE IT. I WASN'T PROPOSING TO DIGNIFY OR MAGNIFY SENATOR BROWN'S ATTACK. IT IS A UNCLASSIFIED

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MISERABLE, IN FACT, A COWARDLY THING

TO ATTACK AN AMBASSADOR. AN AMBASSADOR CANNOT REPLY. IF SENATOR BROWN HAS ANY INFORMATION WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT AMBASSADOR GREEN HAS NOT CONDUCTED HIMSELF WITH PROPRIETY IN HIS PRESENT POST, IT'S HIS DUTY TO GIVE IT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER OR TO THE PRIME MINISTER. HE HAS GIVEN NO SUCH INFORMATION. I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS ANY SUCH INFORMATION. I'VE READ IN THE PAPERS THAT HE IS KEEPING IT FOR SOME RALLY TO MARK THE FOURTH OF JULY. IF THERE'S ANY INFORMATION, IT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN KEPT FOR AN OCCASION LIKE THAT, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROMPTLY PUT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS. BUT FROM WHAT I KNOW OF MR. GREEN, AND I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR TEN YEARS -- IN WASHINGTON, IN JAKARTA, IN WASHINGTON AND IN CANBERRA, HE'S AS YOU ALL KNOW A SINGULARLY ACTIVE, ALERT, ARTICULATE MAN. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE U.S. CONGRESS WOULD HAVE ANY JUSTIFICATION TO CRITICIZE AN AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR WHO HAD SAID OR DONE IN THE UNITED STATES WHAT MR. GREEN HAS DONE IN AUSTRALIA. MR. GREEN IS ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED OF AMERICA'S DIPLOMATS. HE HAS HAD EXPERIENCE FOR OVER 30 YEARS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC AND NOT ONLY DID THE GOVERNMENT APPROVE HIS APPOINTMENT, THAT'S OBVIOUS OF COURSE FROM THE FACT THAT HE BECAME AMBASSADOR HERE, BUT IT WELCOMED HIS APPOINTMENT. MR. GREEN IS A MAN WHOSE EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS WOULD HAVE ENTITLED HIM TO THE EMBASSY IN TOKYO OR THE LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING. I BELIEVE IT'S A SINGULAR INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT AMERICA ATTACHES TO HER RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA THAT MR. GREEN WAS APPOINTED TO CANBERRA.

QUESTION: QTE HAVE YOU CONTACTED MR. GREEN OR CAUSED ANY MESSAGE TO BE SENT TO HIM DISSOCIATING YOURSELF AND THE GOVERNMENT FROM THE SENATOR'S ATTACK?

WHITLAM: QTE I'VE SEEN MR. GREEN SINCE AS YOU WOULD HAVE EXPECTED. I'VE BEEN IN CANBERRA FOR SOME DAYS SINCE THIS MATTER. MR. GREEN DOESN'T NEED TO BE REASSURED OF MY ATTITUDE TO HIM OR HIS COUNTRY.

QUESTION: QTE YOU SAID IF SENATOR BROWN'S COMMENTS WERE COWARDLY AND MISERABLE, DO YOU INTEND TO TELL HIM SO FACE TO FACE?

WHITLAM: QTE I DON'T PROPOSE TO MANGIFY THIS ISSUE.

QUESTION: QTE YOU WON'T SPEAK TO HIM WHEN HE COMES IN NEXT WEEK?

WHITLAM: QTE WELL I SUPPOSE I' LL SPEAK TO HIM. I'M NOT GOING TO CALL HIM IN. I DON'T PROPOSE TO ANSWER ANY FURTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTIONS ON THIS MATTER. END QTE.
GREEN

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NNN

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